

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 in the following complete listing of the claims herein.

1. (Currently amended) A closure for a container having an opening, said ~~container~~ closure comprising:

a base cap including an outer skirt having container-engaging structure, a cylindrical well defining a chamber for containing and supporting a consumable or other item located therein, a frangible membrane connected to said well along an inclined line of weakness and by a hinge member within said well, said hinge member having a pocket extending downward adjacent lower and upper terminuses of said line of weakness; and

an overcap including a body having gripping structure, an inner skirt received within and rotatably connected to said well, and a cutting member depending from a lower end of said inner skirt substantially received within said pocket such that said cutting member extends below said lower terminus when said base cap is assembled to said overcap, whereby said cutting member severs said line of weakness upon substantial rotation of said overcap with respect to said base cap;

wherein said base cap includes an annular groove and said overcap includes a locking structure rotatably received within said groove to axially fix said overcap with respect to said base cap during severing of the line of weakness.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said cutting member includes an angled knife edge.

4. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein relative rotation between said overcap and said base cap in excess of approximately 0-10° causes said cutting member to at least partially sever said line of weakness.

5. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said container-engaging structure includes container-engaging thread dimensioned and configured to cooperate with closure-engaging thread of the container.

6. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, further comprising a tamper-evidencing base band frangibly connected to a lower end of said outer base cap skirt.

7. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, further comprising a tamper-evidencing overcap band frangibly connected to a lower end of said overcap body and operably engaging tamper-evidencing structure on said base cap.

8. (Original) A closure according to claim 7, wherein said overcap band includes a inwardly-extending protrusion extending inwardly and operably engaging an outwardly-extending protrusion on said base cap.

9. (Original) A closure according to claim 7, wherein relative rotation between said overcap and said base cap in excess of approximately 0-5° causes said overcap band to at least partially separate from said overcap body.

10. (Original) A closure according to claim 7, wherein a first amount of relative rotation between said overcap and said base cap is required to at least partially separate said overcap band from said overcap body and a second amount of relative rotation is required for said cutting member to at least partially sever said line of weakness, said second amount being greater than said first amount.

11. (Original) A closure according to claim 10, wherein said second amount is approximately 2-10° greater than said first amount.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said inner overcap skirt includes a sealing bead extending around said lower end of said inner overcap skirt, said sealing bead engaging an inner surface of said well to provide a seal between said base cap and said overcap.

14. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said overcap further includes a pushing member having a lower end positioned adjacent said cutting member wherein said pushing member engages said membrane and pushes said membrane open upon substantial rotation of said overcap with respect to said cap base.

15. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said closure further includes a rotation lock that engages upon full rotation of said overcap with respect to said base cap.

16. (Original) A closure according to claim 15, wherein full rotation is approximately 300-330°.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) A closure according to claim 15, wherein said rotation lock includes an outwardly-directed lock recess on said base cap and an inwardly-extending lock projection extending inwardly from an inner surface of said overcap body.

19. (Original) A closure according to claim 18 wherein said rotation lock produces an audible sound upon engagement of said lock projection into said lock recess

20. (Original) The closure of claim 1, wherein said well and said inner overcap skirt form a sealed chamber, said closure further comprising a consumable material in said chamber.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The closure of claim 1, wherein said overcap includes an aperture, said closure further comprising a dust cap including a plug for sealing said aperture.

23. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 22 wherein said dust cap includes a tamper-evidencing dust cap band frangibly connected to a lower end of said dust cap and operably engaging tamper-evidencing structure on said base cap.